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I know why the Caged Bird Sings
by
Maya Angelou

****I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**** is an autobiography by Maya Angelou, covering her early years from childhood to young adulthood. The book is a poignant exploration of identity, racism, and resilience.

**Plot Summary**

The narrative begins with Maya and her brother Bailey being sent to live with their grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas. The children face racial

discrimination and personal trauma, including Maya's rape by her mother's boyfriend, which leads to her silence for several years.

Key Themes

- **Racism and Segregation:** The book highlights the systemic racism and segregation in the American South.
- **Identity and Self-Worth:** Maya's journey of self-discovery and her struggle to find her voice and identity.
- **Resilience and Overcoming Adversity:** Despite numerous challenges, Maya's resilience and determination shine through.

Significant Characters

- **Maya Angelou:** The protagonist, whose experiences shape her understanding of the world.
- **Bailey Johnson Jr.:** Maya's supportive and protective older brother.
- **Momma (Annie Henderson):** Maya's grandmother, who provides stability and love.
- **Vivian Baxter:** Maya's mother, whose complex relationship with Maya is central to the narrative.

Conclusion

The book concludes with Maya becoming a mother at the age of 16, symbolizing her transition into

adulthood and her newfound sense of identity and purpose.

****I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**** is a powerful and moving account of Maya Angelou's early life, offering profound insights into the human spirit and the quest for freedom and self-expression.